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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/356,241	Applicant(s) BATES ET AL.	
	Examiner Cam-Y T Truong	Art Unit 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 August 2002* .

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27,38,48-57 and 60-65* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *38 and 60-65* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27 and 48-57* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant has amended claims 38, 60, 64, 65 and cancelled claims 58 and 59 in the amendment filled on 8/21/02. Claims 1-27, 38, 48-66 are pending in this Office Action.

Applicant's arguments filed 8/21/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent they are maintained. However, applicant did not discuss any particular points on the rejection filled on 5/10/02, except that applicant will continue the Appeal with regard to claims 1-27 and 48-57.

Applicant also indicated that claim 57 has not been rejected specifically by the examiner, although applicants assume this is imply an oversight. Applicants will consider claim 57 to be rejected on the basis of Shoham and Rose et al., as with claim 56 from which claim 57 depends. However, examiner rejected claim 57 on page 15 line 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoham in view of Rose et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-27 and 48-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shoham (USP5855015) in view of Rose et al (USP 5724567).

As to claim 1, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations:

"in response to a search request, generating a result set including identifications of a subset of a plurality of records in a database that match the search request" as the user enter a specific or general query at block 120, or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics, the system will determine which information resources to present to the user. This information shows that the system generate information resources what match with user input (fig. 4, col. 8, lines 25-31);

"ordering the identifications of the records in the result set using a user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set" as 20 information resources each having a ranking between zero and ten indicative of their relevance or "interestingness" to the user. The heuristics developed based on the training examples continually adapt to the user's interests as determined by the user feedback (col. 8, lines 5-20).

Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "for each of the plurality of records, selectively updating the user feedback parameter associated therewith in response to detecting multiple accesses thereto by a user". However, Rose teaches that that each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant

terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile. A message has been selected by the user, the client program informs the server 10 of the selected message. In response, the server retrieves the complete text of the message, which is illustrated in fig. 3. If the user found the message to be of interest, a thumbs-up icon 38 can be selected. Alternatively, if the message was of little or no interest to the user, a thumbs-down icon 40 can be selected. When either of these two icons is selected, the indication provided thereby is forward to the server 10, where it is used to update the user profile, which contains messages. Each time a message is retrieved such as the data on which the message was posted to the system, the message's author, and the title or subject of the message, feedback information regarding the user's degree of interest is obtained, to thereby maintain an up-to-date profile for the user, where user's profile contains messages (col. 4, lines 25-60; col. 5, lines 20-60; col. 6, lines 30-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile. If the user found the message to be of interest, a thumbs-up icon 38 can be selected. Alternatively, if the message was of little or no interest to the user, a thumbs-down icon 40 can be selected. When either of these two icons is selected, the indication provided thereby is forward to

the server 10, where it is used to update the user profile, which contains messages. Each time a message is retrieved such as the data on which the message was posted to the system, the message's author, and the title or subject of the message, feedback information regarding the user's degree of interest is obtained, to thereby maintain an up-to-date profile for the user to Shoham's system in order to save time for searching or indicating user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claims 2, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "selectively updating the user feedback.....the first record". However, Rose teaches that each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

As to claims 3 and 15, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "updating the user feedback parameter includes increasing a weight for the user feedback parameter associated with a first record in response to the first record being the most recently accessed record in the result set". However, Rose teaches that if the user indicates

interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

As to claims 4 and 17, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations:

"a plurality of weights, each weight associated with a keyword in the associated record" as the search heuristic is a approach which is to extract fit number of keywords from each document; the user's interests were represented with keywords and associated weight (col. 11, lines 16-20).

Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "ordering the records in the result set using the user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set includes ordering the records using any weight associated with a keyword matching the search request". However, Rose teaches that a message has been selected by the user, the client program informs the server 10 of the selected message. In response, the server retrieves the complete text of the message which is illustrated in fig. 3. If the user found the message to be of interest, a thumbs-up icon 38 can be selected. Alternatively, if the message was of little or no interest to the user, a thumbs-down icon 40 can be selected. When either of these two icons is selected, the indication provided thereby is forward to the server 10, where it is used to update the user profile, which contains messages. Each time a message is retrieved such as the data on which the message was posted to the system, the message's author, and the title or subject of the message, feedback information regarding the user's degree of interest is obtained, to thereby maintain an up-to-date profile for the user, where user's profile contains

messages (col. 4, lines 25-60; col. 5, lines 20-60). This information shows that after user updates his or her interest in a particular message, user profile is updated to indicate of degree of interest for each message including date and time for each message.

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of updating user profile to indicate of degree of interest for each message including date and time for each message in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claims 5 and 18, Shoham teaches the claimed limitation "increasing a first weight for the user feedback parameter associated with a first record in response to receipt of a search request matching a first keyword associated with the first weight" as (col. 11, lines 1-20).

As to claims 6, 19, and 51, Shoham teaches the claimed limitation "generating the result set includes accessing a search request data structure that includes a plurality of search request records, each including a search request parameter identifying a unique combination of keywords, and a result set parameter identifying a subset of

records in the database that match the unique combination of keywords" as (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 62-67; col. 6, lines 13-20).

As to claims 7 and 20, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "partitioning the result set into a plurality of relevance groups, with each relevance group including identifications of records having like relevancies to the search request; sorting the identifications or records within each relevance group according to the user feedback parameters associated therewith".

However, Shoham teaches that determining which information sources to present to the user. This information indicates partitioning or selecting relevance information, which matches to the user's request. The input to the heuristics initialization, i.e. the training examples, consists of 20 information resources each having a ranking between zero and ten indicative of their relevance or interestingness to the use. The output of the initialization process would be a function that takes any web information resources and returns a ranking within the range of zero to ten, where the heuristics developed based on the training examples continually adapt to the user's interests as determined by the user feedback (fig. 4, col. 8, lines 25-31). This information shows that the system determines information resources, which may contain a list of documents or data records obviously, match with user requests.

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shoham's teaching of which information sources to present to the user. The output of the initialization process would be a function that

takes any web information resources and returns a ranking within the range of zero to ten, where the heuristics developed based on the training in order to provide the most relevance results to a user.

As to claims 8 and 21, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations

"each record in database includes a Uniform Resource Identifier (URL) that identifies a document stored on a computer network" as information sources are authored utilizing the HTML and the hyperlinks are defined utilizing Uniform Resource Locators (URL's). Also HTTP is utilized to explore and retrieve the associated information resource specified by the URL (col. 6, lines 10-20)";

"the document stored at the URL associated with the first record" as (col. 6, lines 10-20). Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein selectively updating the user feedback parameter includes selectively updating the user feedback parameter associated with a first record in the database in response to detecting multiple accesses". However, Rose teaches the above claimed limitation in col. 6, lines 30-35. It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a use provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile to Shoham's system

in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claims 9 and 22, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "generating the result set includes generating at least one hypertext document including a plurality of hypertext links, each of which configured to access a document identified by a record in the result set". However, Shoham teaches that the user may also enter a specific or general query at block 120, or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates that the system should simply start exploring and use subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. Information resources are authored utilizing the HTML and the hyperlinks are defined URL's (col. 8, lines 25-30; col. 6, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shoham's teaching of the user may also enter a specific or general query at block 120, or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates that the system should simply start exploring and use subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. Information resources are authored utilizing the HTML and the hyperlinks are defined URL's in order to return the most relevance of information resources to user.

As to claim 10, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations

"generating a script associated with at least one of the records in the result set" as using HTML to structure the information which associated with the results (col. 10, lines 24-37). This information shows that the system should generate a script in order to structure the information which associasted with the results.

Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitations "the script configured....receiving the notification". However, Rose teaches the claimed limitations:

"the script configured to generate a notification that the associated record has been accessed by a user" as after user reads the document, as indicated in the table 42. If the user had not yet voted, a value of zero would be used for weight factor. Rather than using the values +1 and –1, any other numbering arrangement can be employed to indicate a user's vote. The resulting scores are then ranked to determine the order of presentation (col. 7, lines 35-40). This information indicates that the any score is represented as a notification that the associated record has been accessed by a user. The system should include a script to generate scores or a notification for each document in order to show the document has been accessed by a user.

"detecting multiple accesses to the document stored at the URL associated with the first record includes receiving the notification" as each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication.

For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of after user reads the document, as indicated in the table 42. If the user had not yet voted, a value of zero would be used for weight factor. Rather than using the values +1 and –1, any other numbering arrangement can be employed to indicate a user's vote. The resulting scores are then ranked to determine the order of presentation. Each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile to Shoham's system in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document, provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted and save time for searching or retrieving a document.

As to claim 11, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations:

"a memory within which is resident a plurality of records from a database, each record associated with a user feedback parameter" as in memory 82 stores information source which is associated with user feedback as shown in fig 4-5 (col. 7, lines 5-30);

"a first program; resident in the memory, the first program configured to, in response to a search request, generate a result set including identifications of a subset of the plurality of records that match the search request, and to order the identifications of the records in the result set using the user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set" as (col. 8, lines 8-24).

Shoham fails to teaches the claimed limitation "a second program, resident in the memory, the second program configured to, for each of the plurality of records, selectively update the user feedback parameter associated therewith in response to multiple accesses thereto by a user". However, Rose teaches the above claimed limitation in col. 6, lines 30-35.

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile to Shoham's system in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claim 12, Shoham teaches the same claimed limitations as claim 11 except, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "a signal bearing medium bearing the first and second programs". However, Shoham teaches that the user may also enter a specific or general query or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. This information shows that the system should have a program in order to match documents with user's request; a memory 82 (col. 8, lines 25-30). Also, Rosa teaches that each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile. This information indicates that the system should have a program in order to detect times user access document (col. 6, lines 30-35). It is obviously that the memory 82 can be used as a signal medium to synchronize between those programs. It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Shoham's teaching of the user may also enter a specific or general query or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. This information shows that the system should have a program in order to match documents

with user's request; a memory 82; and Rose's teaching of each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile in order to run the system and save time for search or indicating user's degree of interest in each retrieve document.

As to claims 13, 26, and 57, Shoham teaches the claimed limitation "the signal bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium" as (col. 6, lines 60-67; col. 7, lines 1-5) "a transmission type medium" as (col. 5, lines 50-60).

As to claim 14, Shoham teaches the same claimed limitations in claim 1, except Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "for each of the plurality of records, selectively updating the user feedback parameter associated therewith in response to detecting that the record is the most recently accessed record in the result set". However, Rose teaches that a message has been selected by the user, the client program informs the server 10 of the selected message. In response, the server retrieves the complete text of the message which is illustrated in fig. 3. If the user found the message to be of interest, a thumbs-up icon 38 can be selected. Alternatively, if the message was of little or no interest to the user, a thumbs-down icon 40 can be selected.

When either of these two icons is selected, the indication provided thereby is forward to the server 10, where it is used to update the user profile, which contains messages. Each time a message is retrieved such as the data on which the message was posted to the system, the message's author, and the title or subject of the message, feedback information regarding the user's degree of interest is obtained, to thereby maintain an up-to-date profile for the user, where user's profile contains messages (col. 4, lines 25-60; col. 5, lines 20-60). This information shows that after user updates his or her interest in a particular message, user profile is updated to indicate of degree of interest for each message including date and time for each message. It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of updating user profile to indicate of degree of interest for each message including date and time for each message in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claim 16, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "increasing a weight for the user feedback parameter associated with a first record in response to the number times a user accesses the first record". However, Rose teaches that each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant

terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

As to claim 23, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations

"generating a script associated with at least one of the records in the result set" as using HTML to structure the information which associated with the results (col. 10, lines 24-37). This information shows that the system should generate a script in order to structure the information, which associated with the results.

Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitations "the script configured....receiving the notification". However, Rose teaches the claimed limitations:

"the script configured to generate a notification that the associated record has been accessed by a user" as after user reads the document, as indicated in the table 42. If the user had not yet voted, a value of zero would be used for weight factor. Rather than using the values +1 and –1, any other numbering arrangement can be employed to indicate a user's vote. The resulting scores are then ranked to determine the order of presentation (col. 7, lines 35-40). This information indicates that the any score is represented as a notification that the associated record has been accessed by a user. The system should include a script to generate scores or a notification for each document in order to show the document has been accessed by a user.

"detecting multiple accesses to the document stored at the URL associated with the first record includes receiving the notification" as each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously

retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of after user reads the document, as indicated in the table 42. If the user had not yet voted, a value of zero would be used for weight factor. Rather than using the values +1 and –1, any other numbering arrangement can be employed to indicate a user's vote. The resulting scores are then ranked to determine the order of presentation. Each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile to Shoham's system in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document, provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted and save time for searching or retrieving a document.

As to claim 24, Shoham teaches the same claimed limitation in claim 11 and 14.

As to claim 25, Shoham teaches the same claimed limitation in 24, except Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "a signal bearing medium bearing the first and second programs". However, Shoham teaches that the user may also enter a specific or general query or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. This information shows that the system should have a program in order to match documents with user's request; a memory 82 (col. 8, lines 25-30). Also, Rosa teaches that each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile. This information indicates that the system should have a program in order to detect times user access document (col. 6, lines 30-35). It is obviously that the memory 82 can be used as a signal medium to synchronize between those programs.

As to claim 27, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations:

"in response to a search request.....that match the search request" as (col. 8, lines 25-30; col. 6, lines 15-20);

"ordering the identifications of the records ....in the result set....that match the search request" as (col. 8, lines 15-25; col. 11, lines 15-20; col. 8, lines 5-25). Shoham

fails to teach the claimed limitation "for each of the plurality .....to user interaction with the record". However, Rose teaches the above claimed limitation in col. 6, lines 30-35.

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provides a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile to Shoham's system in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claim 48, Shham teaches the claimed limitation "selectively updating at least one weight.....search request for the user" as (col. 11, lines 1-20).

As to claim 49, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "selectively updating.....multiple accesses thereto by a user". However, Rose teaches that each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant

terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

As to claim 50, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "updating at least weight for the user feedback parameter includes increasing .....the most recently accessed record in the result set". However, Rose teaches that if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be given increased weight in the user's profile (col. 6, lines 30-35).

As to claim 52, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "partitioning the result set into a plurality of relevance groups..... user feedback parameters associated therewith". However, Shoham teaches that determining which information sources to present to the user. This information indicates partitioning or selecting relevance information, which matches to the user's request. The input to the heuristics initialization, i.e. the training examples, consists of 20 information resources each having a ranking between zero and ten indicative of their relevance or interestingness to the use. The output of the initialization process would be a function that takes any web information resources and returns a ranking within the range of zero to ten, where the heuristics developed based on the training examples continually adapt to the user's interests as determined by the user feedback (fig. 4, col. 8, lines 25-31). This information shows that the system determines information resources, which may contain a list of documents or data records obviously, match with user requests.

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shoham's teaching of which information sources to present to the user. The output of the initialization process would be a function that takes any web information resources and returns a ranking within the range of zero to ten, where the heuristics developed based on the training in order to provide the most relevance records to a user.

As to claim 53, Shoham teaches the claimed limitations

"each record in database includes a Uniform Resource Identifier (URL) that identifies a document stored on a computer network" as information sources are authored utilizing the HTML and the hyperlinks are defined utilizing Uniform Resource Locators (URL's). Also HTTP is utilized to explore and retrieve the associated information resource specified by the URL (col. 6, lines 10-20)";

Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "wherein selectively updating the user feedback parameter includes .....user interaction with the first record". However, Rose teaches the above claimed limitation in col. 6, lines 30-35. It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose's teaching of each user profile also comprises a vector, based upon the user's indications as to his relative interest in previously retrieved documents. Each time a user provide a new response to a retrieved message, the profile vector is modified in accordance with the results of the indication. For example, if the user indicates interest in a document, all of the significant terms in that document can be

given increased weight in the user's profile to Shoham's system in order to save time for searching or indicate user's degree of interest in each retrieve document and provide a convenient mechanism for notifying users when new items of information have been posted.

As to claim 54, Shoham fails to teach the claimed limitation "generating the result .....a record in the result set". However, Shoham teaches that the user may also enter a specific or general query at block 120, or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates that the system should simply start exploring and use subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. Information resources are authored utilizing the HTML and the hyperlinks are defined URL's (col. 8, lines 25-30; col. 6, lines 15-20).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shoham's teaching of the user may also enter a specific or general query at block 120, or select an information resource of interest to initialize the heuristics. A null query indicates that the system should simply start exploring and use subsequent presentation and relevance feedback to shape the heuristics and determine which information resources to present to the user. Information resources are authored utilizing the HTML and the hyperlinks are defined URL's in order to return the most relevance of information resources to user.

As to claim 55 recites the same limitations as referred to claims 24 and 27. Therefore, it is rejected under the same rational.

As to claim 56 recites the same limitations as referred to claims 55 and 25. Therefore, it is rejected under the same rational.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 38, 60-66 are allowed.

As to claim 38, none of the available prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests ordering the identifications of .....wherein selectively updating the user feedback parameter includes updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure. Updating the query based on the feedback is well known in the art as taught by Shoham. However, prior art such as Shoham and Rose do not teach "receiving a search request that specifies a plurality of keywords.... ordering the identifications of .....wherein selectively updating the user feedback parameter includes updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure" in the specific combination as recited in claim 38.

As to claim 64, none of the available prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests wherein the program is further configured to order the identifications of the subset of records.....to selectively update the user feedback parameter by updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure. Updating

the query based on the feedback is well known in the art as taught by Shoham. However, prior art such as Shoham and Rose do not teach "a memory within which is resident a search request data structure, the search request data structure including a plurality .....wherein the program is further configured to order the identifications of the subset of records.....to selectively update the user feedback parameter by updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure" in the specific combination as recited in claim 64.

As to claim 65, none of the available prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests wherein the program is further configured to order the identifications of subset of records.....updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure. Updating the query based on the feedback is well known in the art as taught by Shoham. However, prior art such as Shoham and Rose do not teach "a program configured to, in response to a search request..... wherein the program is further configured to order the identifications of subset of records.....updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure" in the specific combination as recited in claim 65.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

6. *Any* inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam-Y Truong whose telephone number is (703-605-1169). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on (703-305-4393). The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)-746-7239 (formal communications intended for entry), or: (703)-746-7240 (informal communication labeled PROPOSED or DRAFT).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Cam-Y Truong

8/26/02

JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER